

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

The Office of Coordinator of Information was established by a Presidential order of July 11, 1941. By a military order of June 13, 1942, this Office, exclusive of certain foreign information activities transferred to the Office of War Information, was redesignated the Office of Strategic Services and transferred to the jurisdiction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The functions of this Office, as modified by an Executive order of March 9, 1943, were to collect and analyze such strategic information as required by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for military operations and planning and to conduct special operations not assigned to other Government agencies. An Executive order of September 20, 1945, provided for the termination of the Office of Strategic Services, effective October 1, 1945, and for the distribution of its functions to the State Department and the War Department.

Records that are part of the National Archives of the United States:

In the National Archives Building:

Textual records include correspondence, cables, reports, and issuances of the Office of the Chief; intelligence reports gathered by the Central Information Division; records of the Economics, Europe-Africa, Far East, and Latin American Divisions; correspondence and minutes of meetings of the Board of Analysts and the Projects Committee; records of the New Delhi and Stockholm outposts of the Interdepartmental Committee for the Acquisition of Foreign Publications; records of field offices of the European, Mediterranean, and China Theaters of Operations; case files and working papers of the Visual Presentation Branch; and correspondence of the Foreign Nationalities Branch, 1940-45.

Audiovisual records include prints and negatives showing industrial development in China, Japan, Manchuria, the Philippines, and other Pacific islands; and motion pictures relating to Tibet, Pearl Harbor, and Japanese subjects, 1925-40. Cartographic records include intelligence maps of the Far East and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, topographic maps of Europe showing plans for "commando-type" operations, plaster relief models of Tunisia and Northeast China, and drawings of industrial plants in the Philippines, 1940-45.

Inclusive dates: 1925-46. Quantity: 935 cubic feet, including 10 cubic feet of audiovisual records and 7 cubic feet of cartographic records. Custody: Modern Military Records Division and the Audiovisual and Cartographic Branches of the Special Records Division. These records were received from the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Group, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Related records in other record groups:

Related records are in RG 59, General Records of the Department of State, and in RG 263, Records of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Rev. 3, September 17, 1968.